

American Antiquarian Society,
Worcester, Mass.
Proceedings

1853

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

(IN BOSTON, APRIL 27, 1853.)

IN WORCESTER, OCTOBER 24, 1853)

SEP - 3 1953

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



WORCESTER:
PRINTED BY HENRY J. HOWLAND,
199 Main Street, rear of Union Block.

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PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING,—APRIL 27, 1853,

AT THE ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES, IN BOSTON.

Hon. John Davis, Vice-President, in the chair.

The several Reports of the Council, the Treasurer, and the Librarian, were read, and afterwards referred to the Council with instructions to print the whole, or such portions as they deem expedient.

A verbal report was made by Mr. Haven, on behalf of the Committee of Publication, that the Memoir of Mr. Lapham on the aboriginal remains of Wisconsin had been revised by the chairman of the Committee, and that a transcript had been sent to the Smithsonian Institution. The Chairman had also prepared a paper upon that memoir for publication with the proceedings of the last meeting of this Society, which would be printed as soon as it should be returned from the Smithsonian Institution, where it had by some accident been mislaid.

Voted, To instruct the Council to make arrangements for a commemoration of the opening of the new Hall, and to take into consideration the subject of changing the day of the anniversary.

Resolved, That the Annual meeting of the Society shall be on such day as the Council shall determine.

Voted, To proceed to the election of members.

Hon. Samuel Hubbard of Middletown, Connecticut, Henry Chapin, Esq., of Worcester, and Increase A. Lapham, Esq., of Wisconsin, having been recommended by the Council, were unanimously elected.

Resolved, That the Society deem the removal of the Old Court House at Worcester into a line with the other buildings near it to be highly expedient: and hereby request the Council to take such measures as they consider judicious to induce the County Commissioners to make such removal at the expense of the County.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

Attest.

SAMUEL F. HAVEN,

Recording Secretary, Pro tem.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

The Council of the American Antiquarian Society respectfully report,

That the hope expressed in their report of October last has been fulfilled,—and that the new building is so near completion, that the removal of the Library to it is begun.

This removal will be conducted with care, and with as much regularity as possible. It is intended that the books shall be placed, at once, in the places which they will permanently occupy.

We can still, it proves, preserve some general features of the old arrangement, such as those which keep in one alcove the Libraries of the Mathers, in another those of Dr. Bent-

ley ; whose Collections have a distinct value as illustrating, when preserved together, the separate lines of study in which their former owners were especially interested. The collection made by Dr. Sprague also remains unbroken.

For our present purposes, the shelves of the New Library have been so arranged as to admit about 27,000 books ; without leaving in any part of the Hall a bare or poverty-stricken appearance. The capacities of the Hall, however, are such, that, as the means of the Society and the liberality of its friends shall enlarge our collections of books, we shall be able to make room conveniently for nearly as many more. For after purposes, we have in reserve the commodious hall in the basement.

The new building, which we are at last enabled to occupy, was described in the report presented last April. It is built in the most substantial manner, of brick and free-stone. It occupies the site presented to the Society by Hon. Stephen Salisbury, on the corner of Highland and Main Streets,—fronting on Lincoln Square. The style of building is Italian ; and in its general expression it resembles some of the smaller and simpler buildings erected in Italy in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, by architects as distinguished even as Raphael and Michael Angelo, when the purpose was one which required a severe simplicity. The Council take the liberty of comparing it with such edifices, because they hear frequent strictures on its want of external adornment.

The report presented last year explained the general disposition of its interior arrangements. The large Hall devoted to the Library is lighted by windows on three sides, and by a sky-light in the roof. Thus, light, the first necessity of a Library Hall, is completely secured. Alcoves are arranged on each side of this Hall ; to the number of nine in all ; the partitions between them running in right angles from the walls, to eight Tuscan Columns,

arranged in a square, and forming the support of a dome, which rises in the middle of the ceiling.

The general suggestion of the form of Library Hall, which thus arranges the alcoves, is due to M. Delessert, formerly Prefect of the city of Paris. In the reign of Louis Philippe, it became necessary to provide new accommodation, for the increasing treasures of the Bibliothèque Royale. Different plans were suggested for additional buildings. If any of these plans had been executed, the supervision of them would have devolved upon the Prefect of Paris. M. Delessert, therefore, felt himself so far interested in the arrangement of the Library, that he submitted to the public and the Government, a plan for a Library building entirely new. This plan complied with the most important requisites for a Library, by what he called a *panoptic* arrangement. By this he meant, that, in fact, every book of that immense collection would be in sight, in this arrangement, from the centre of its Hall.

The requisites which he attempted to satisfy, were those of liberal light, of easy supervision, and as narrow a limit as possible to the walks of those who had to take the books from the shelves. In his construction, these would be secured, by the erection of a circular building, from the outer walls of which partitions of alcoves ran inward, as radii of the circle, towards the centre. In some full reports which he published on his system, he compared this arrangement with that of the old Royal library, and with many of the largest Libraries in Europe, and demonstrated, that the plan which he proposed diminished to a minimum the cost of the edifice, and the labor in walking to and fro of students and attendants.*

* He published in 1835 a work with the following title: "Mémoire sur la Bibliothèque Royale ou l'on indique les mesures à prendre pour la transférer dans un bâtiment circulaire, d'une forme nouvelle, qui serait construit au centre de la place du Carrousel; cette Bibliothèque contiendrait 800,000 Volumes; elle serait incombustible, d'un service et d'une surveillance faciles ;

But the destinies of Library buildings are generally more in the hands of architects, eager for external display, than of students, or of Librarians. As this ingenious author himself said, at the beginning of one of his papers, an architect invited to design a Library building, thinks at once of ancient temples, porticos, colonnades,—and never of what is needed in the Library. And the other plans submitted for the Bibliothèque Royale, and the plan recently executed in the Bibliothèque St. Genevieve, convenient as that is in its way, justify his observation.

No new Bibliothèque Royale, Bibliothèque Republicaine, or Bibliothèque Imperiale, has as yet been built, in Paris, for this unequalled collection.

The ingenious plan of M. Delessert suggested to Prof. Jewett and Mr. Tefft the design of an admirable, we may say incomparable Library Hall on this principle, for the Smithsonian Institute, which they submitted to the Board of Regents. But the passion for architectural prettiness prevailed in the erection of the building of the Hall of that Institute, and its Library was confined to the picturesque, but inconvenient habitation which it will occupy, when that Hall is completed.

So far as we are aware, Lawrence Hall, the Library building of Williams College, was the first Library Hall ever erected on the suggestion of M. Delessert. This Hall was

tous les livres seraient renfermés sous des châssis vitrés et accessibles au moyen de Galeries et escaliers en fer ; Elle n'occuperait que 1900 toises carrées, et pourrait être entièrement terminée dans trois ans pour la somme de 8 millions, elle ne coûterait rien à l'Etat ; les terrains et maisons occupés par la Bibliothèque actuelle étant d'une valeur égale. Avec deux planches. Paris, 1835—40, 14 pages, and two large plates. Subsequently it was proposed to place the Library in the *place Belle Chasse*, and Delessert published a second Memoir to show that the *panoptical* plan was applicable to a building of elliptical form. The title of the second work is as follows : "Second Memoire sur la Bibliothèque Royale, sur l'emplacement où elle pourrait être construit et sur la meilleure disposition à donner aux grandes Bibliothèques publiques. Avec une planche. Paris, 1re Juin, 1838. 10 pp. 112.

designed by Mr Tefft and Mr. Jewett in 1847, and conforms to the general idea of alcoves radiating from one centre, all equi-distant from it. The collection however, being only 6,000 volumes, is too small to test the principle. That Hall is an octagon.

Our own Hall, as has been said, is exactly square. In Mr. Tefft's first design, he proposed to preserve absolutely the *panoptic* principle, by building the partitions of the alcoves on lines radiating from the centre of the room. In a square room, however, this arrangement seemed to him, on further study, undesirable; and the partitions of the alcoves, as has been said, run at right angles from the walls. But by preserving the Hall an exact square, the principle is attained, which enables a student to pass from book to book, in the shortest time possible, and which gives the largest amount of book room, and of light, with the smallest expense, for external wall, and other architectural requisitions. As the new Library Hall unites such advantages, as the plan in which it unites them is the result of the most recent study of accomplished men in this field of art, and as great beauty of proportion is secured in the arrangements, the Council hardly hesitate to say that our new Hall is better adapted for the purposes of a Library than any Hall, anywhere, with which they are acquainted.

The enlargement of our means of study and research, afforded by its completion, induces the Council to hope that as our collections will be more useful than ever, the studies of the members and friends of the Society may also be made more profitable to the public. Those who visit our Library in pursuit of their Historical inquiries bring to light much which is of interest, from the archives of the past. The frequent additions to our Cabinet and Library, also, derive their value from circumstances interesting to the Society at large, and the public, as well as to the officers of the Institution. The Council therefore have contemplated the ex-

periment of calling, in the New Hall, more frequent meetings of the Society, where the results of the researches of its members and friends may be made public, and such other information regarding the antiquities of America, as may appear from time to time. There would seem to be no impropriety in opening such meetings to the public, and thus gradually interesting a larger and larger number of persons in the pursuits to which the Society is devoted. We believe also, that the opportunity to submit, in such meetings, to the Society, the results of careful antiquarian study, will preserve the fruits of much research which now is scarcely made known at all,—and is lost, indeed, for want of an audience competent to decide on its merits. The details of such meetings will occupy the attention of the Council.

The Librarian's report, and the Treasurer's report, are presented herewith,—and constitute a part of this report. They exhibit a satisfactory state of the funds, and the collections.

The Council have not made any final arrangement for the sale of the estate now occupied by the old Library building. The proceeds of that sale,—when it is effected,—will be, so far, an enlargement of the resources of the Society, diminished at present by the cost of the new building.

The death of one of our members, since the Society last met, has called forth the regret of a nation. Mr. Webster was one of the earliest members of this society, having been elected in October 1814, while he resided in Portsmouth. The services, which, as a statesman, he rendered to his country, and the world, will be those which most frequently commemorate him. But, at the same time, students and men of letters will remember that, with all the vigor of his mind, he was a laborious student, and that his labors as a statesman have been permanent and invaluable gifts to English literature. His picture of the flight of the Pilgrims from England, and their after flight from Holland, as he sketched

it for his Plymouth address, is the History of those events which lives, and will live, in the minds of our people. It has found its way, almost as if it were an original authority, into the standard Histories of the Country. It is an agreeable memento of Mr. Webster's abiding affection for the characters of those pious men, whose institutions he has illustrated, whose fields he has tilled, and whose graves surround his own. But it is only one among many efforts of his devoted to the cause which interests our Society.

Respectfully submitted,

for the Committee,

EDWARD E. HALE.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

The subscriber, Treasurer of the American Antiquarian Society, respectfully reports,

That the Balance of Notes, Stock and

Cash in his hands Oct. 16, 1852, was \$28,981 24

Since which time he has received for

interest on Notes	-	-	667	55
Dividends on Bank Stock,	-	-	264	
				<u>\$29,912 79</u>

In the same time he has paid on ac-

count of the new Hall,	-	-	6,047	15
To the Librarian, 6 months salary,			360	
To the Treasurer, for one year,			30	
For insurance,	-	-	51	94
For sundry Bills paid by Mr. Haven, &c.			64	81
				<u>\$6,553 90</u>

Leaving a Balance of	-	-	-	<u>\$23,358 89</u>
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Consisting of Notes secured by mort-

gage,	-	-	-	-	13,425
Notes personal,	-	-	-	-	2,000
Central Bank Stock,	-	-	-	-	300
Citizens	"	-	-	-	1,100
"	"	-	-	-	400
Blackstone	"	-	-	-	500
Fitchburg	"	-	-	-	600
Oxford	"	-	-	-	400
Quinsigamond	"	-	-	-	600
Shawmut	"	-	-	-	2,500
Worcester	"	-	-	-	1,100
Cash	-	-	-	-	433 89
					<hr/> \$23,358 89

SAMUEL JENNISON, *Treasurer.*

April 22, 1853.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The Librarian has to report the receipt of two hundred and fifty-four volumes, and sixteen hundred and ninety-seven pamphlets, since the 23d of October last.

From Hon. John Davis have been received fourteen volumes (including some of the most costly illustrated works published under the authority of the U. S. Government) and five hundred and fifty-seven miscellaneous pamphlets, or unbound documents. He has also presented a full series of the charts executed under the direction of the superintendent of the Coast Survey, a series of charts accompanied by sailing directions relating to the Bays and Rivers of California, and a collection of State Maps on rollers, obtained from the

Post Office department at Washington, with a number of disconnected Maps and Charts of equal interest and utility.

From Hon. Levi Lincoln have been received one hundred and eighty-eight volumes, nine hundred and ninety-six miscellaneous pamphlets, a collection of maps of towns in Worcester County, and several files of Newspapers. Most of the volumes are Congressional and State documents, extending from 1774 to 1840, well bound, and in good order; and the pamphlets embrace a very large amount of statistical information relating to public and private enterprises, and belonging to general or local history.

Hon. Ira M. Barton has deposited the portraits of Columbus and Vesputius, which were proffered to the Society at their last meeting. These, it will be remembered, were copied for Judge Barton from the well known paintings in the Bourbon Gallery at Naples, by an artist of reputation recommended for the purpose. They are of a large size, and will be handsome and most appropriate ornaments to the new Hall. They were accompanied by an interesting and particular historical account of the originals, from the pen of the donor, which accompanies this Report.

The late Representative in Congress from Worcester, Hon. Charles Allen, has been attentive in selecting and transmitting various useful publications to the institution.

The gift of a fine copy of Carver's Travels in North America, the original London edition, with maps and plates, handsomely bound, by Rev. George Allen of Worcester, is worthy of particular mention for the act of courtesy attending it. It was purchased by him at a sale in New York, and was presented to the Society immediately on learning that an intention had existed to secure it for the Library. Mr. Allen, moreover, had recently made quite a generous donation of valuable books, included in a previous report.

Books, pamphlets, &c., of a most acceptable character, have also been received from the following sources.

E. G. Squier, Esq., New York.
 Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, Dorchester.
 Samuel A. Green, Groton.
 Charles B. Norton, New York.
 The Massachusetts Peace Society.
 The New Jersey Historical Society.
 The Providence Atheneum.
 Hon. Edward Everett, Boston.
 Thomas Lee, Esq., " "
 Horace Davis, Worcester.
 Rev. T. W. Higginson, " "
 The Société de Géographie, Paris, Fr.
 The Congress of U. S.
 B. F. French, Esq., New York.
 E. B. O'Callaghan, M. D., Albany, N. Y.
 The General Assembly of Rhode Island.
 Rev. Joseph B. Felt, Boston.
 The Smithsonian Institution.
 Joel Munsell, Albany, N. Y.
 Samuel G. Drake, Boston.
 Miss Mary C. Gay, Suffield, Conn.
 The City of Boston.
 The Albany Institute.
 Peter C. Bacon, Esq., Worcester.
 William S. Barton, Esq., " "
 George Chandler, M. D., " "
 Messrs. Little & Brown, Booksellers, Boston.
 George C. Rand, " "
 The American Philosophical Society.
 Thomas Chase, Worcester.
 Samuel Jennison, Esq., " "
 The Royal Geographical Society, London, G. B.
 Jared Sparks, LL. D., Cambridge.
 Dexter F. Parker, Worcester.
 B. H. Kinney, " "

The Committee of Arrangements of the Centennial
Celebration at Danvers.

William T. G. Morton, M. D., Boston.

Miss Sophia Barnard, Whately.

The Rhode Island Historical Society.

The Regents of the University of New York.

The Trustees of the New York State Library.

George Livermore, Esq., Cambridge.

Charles Paine, Esq., Worcester.

The Editors & Publishers of

The N. E. Genealogical Register.

“ Merchant’s Magazine.

“ Farmer’s Monthly Visitor.

“ Christian Watchman and Reflector.

“ Semi-weekly Boston Courier.

“ Fitchburg Sentinel.

“ Worcester National Ægis.

“ Worcester Spy.

“ Norton’s Literary Gazette.

Before another report is made, the library will probably have been moved to the new building.

While rejoicing at the increased accommodations and greater conveniences which will there be afforded, an expression of regret may be permitted at parting with the old and accustomed edifice, which has long served so useful a purpose, and been the centre of so many pleasant associations. Its very defects are, in a degree, harmonious with the purpose to which it has been devoted. Its shaded position and sombre halls, though generating mould and decay, have to common conceptions, a fitness and propriety that almost compensate for their disadvantages. Yet our purpose is not so much to associate with our progenitors in shadowy precincts, their poetical habitation, as to reanimate their works, and bring them to the light and life of the present day; and if departed

spirits may be supposed to haunt the places where the fruits of their intellectual labors and capacities are gathered, they must have acquired very melancholy tastes, if they do not on their own part prefer to walk, though invisible, in the sunshine of spacious and cheerful apartments, rather than to glide more perceptibly through dark passages amid dampness and gloom.

It may be reasonably anticipated that the living, at least, will feel a livelier interest in our collections in their new repository; and that a stronger impulse to enlarge the means and increase the usefulness of the Society will be experienced by its friends.

Respectfully submitted,

S. F. HAVEN.

Worcester, February 4, 1853.

S. F. HAVEN, ESQ. Librarian, &c.

Dear Sir,—Agreeably to my promise, I give you some account of the paintings of Columbus and Americus Vesputius, copies of which I had the pleasure of presenting to your Society. In 1850, I found the originals of these paintings in the Gallery belonging to the Royal or Bourbon Museum at Naples. The artist that painted them, was Francesco Mazzuoli, better known as Parmigianino, taking this name from the city of Parma, the place of his nativity. He was born in 1503, and died in 1540. In 1520, he was a student of Raphael at Rome, and he remained there after his master's death in that year, till the sacking of that city by Charles 5th in 1527, when he returned to Parma. See Lanzi's History of Painting, translated by Roscoe, vol. 1, p. 393, in Bohn's Standard Library. That Parmigianino was pursuing his studies at Rome in 1527, appears further from an incident stated in Lempriere's Biographical Dictionary,

Art. Mazzuoli, where it is said, that "his application to his art was so great, that when Rome was sacked by Charles 5th, he remained engaged with his pencil, like another Protegenes, unconscious of surrounding danger." Lanzi says that the style of this artist, was at once great, noble and dignified; that the prevailing character, however, in which he so greatly shone, was grace of manner; a grace which won for him at Rome that most flattering of all eulogies, that "the spirit of Raffaello had passed into Parmigianino."

From the foregoing dates, it appears that these paintings of Columbus and Americus Vespucius, must now be more than three hundred years old. They were probably executed by the artist, after his return to Parma in 1527, at the request of Cardinal Alexander Farnese, a distinguished patron of the arts, whose palace they decorated before their removal to Naples. See *Bulletin de la Societè de Geographie*, 3^e serie, tome 3, p. 370. It is true, M. Jomard, the author of the tract here referred to, does not speak of Americus, but as the paintings were both by the same artist, and are apparently of the same date, it is fair to presume, that they were originally placed together in the Farnese palace at Rome, and that they have ever since kept each other's company, side by side, as they now do in the Gallery at Naples. I am unable to state the period at which these paintings were removed from the Farnese Palace. That Palace was completed by the Cardinal Alexander Farnese, about the year 1550, and was then greatly enriched with works of art, though, at present, it does not equal, in that respect, the Palace Corsini, nor, indeed, many other palaces in Rome. See *Guide to Rome* par M. Piale, p. 384 and 393. At a subsequent period, the King of Naples succeeded to the Farnese estates, and many of the works of art collected in the Farnese Palace, were removed to enrich his own Capital. Among the articles so removed, were not only the paintings of Columbus and Americus Vespucius, but the celebrated

statues of "the Hercules," by Glycon, the Athenian; "the Flora"; the group of Dirce, known as the "Farnese Bull," and many other works, now affording points of great attraction, in the Bourbon Museum, at Naples. See *Guide en Italie*, par Richard, p. 719.

It is frequently asked, whether these paintings of Columbus and Vespuccius, are likenesses of the original subjects? That question may be regarded as sufficiently answered by the fact, that the artist was but three years old at the time of the death of Columbus in 1506, and eleven at that of Americus Vespuccius; so there is no probability he ever saw either of them. He, no doubt, had accounts of the personal appearance of his subjects, and, in the case of Columbus, without much aid of the imagination, you may discover some correspondence between his features as described by his son, Fernando, and the elongated visage, and aquiline nose, indicated by the painting of him. But, however that may be, it has been well said, that if the painting is not after nature, "art could not imagine a better one."

I will only add, that the copies of these paintings were taken by Sen. Antonio Scardino, an artist recommended to me by our excellent and veteran Consul at Naples, Alexander Hammett, Esq.

Yours truly,

IRA M. BARTON.

ANNUAL MEETING.

OCTOBER 24, 1853.

AT ANTIQUARIAN HALL, IN WORCESTER.

Hon. John Davis, Vice President, in the chair.

The several Reports of the Council, the Librarian, and the Treasurer, were read.

Hon. Ira M. Barton, and Hon. Thomas Kinnicutt, were appointed a Committee to audit the account of the Treasurer.

Voted, To refer the Reports to the Council, to be disposed of as they may think proper.

Rev. Mr. Hale proposed the following Resolutions, which were adopted.

Resolved; That the thanks of the Society be presented to Hon. Stephen Salisbury for his constant thoughtfulness, at home and abroad, in endowing so richly the departments of the library which relate to Biography and Local History, and for other valuable accessions contributed by him.

Resolved; That the thanks of the Society be presented to Hon. Isaac Davis, and George Livermore, Esq., for their valuable and acceptable donations.

Voted, To proceed to the election of members.

Rev. Seth Sweetser,

Dwight Foster, Esq.,

George F. Hoar, Esq.,

all of Worcester, were severally elected.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of officers for the ensuing year.

Hon. John P. Bigelow, Hon. Ira M. Barton, and Hon. Levi Lincoln, were appointed a Committee of nomination.

The following list having been presented by the Committee, the gentlemen therein named, were elected by ballot.

President.

HON. JOHN DAVIS, LL. D., of Worcester.

Vice Presidents.

REV. WILLIAM JENKS, D. D., of Boston.

HON. STEPHEN SALISBURY, of Worcester.

Council.

HON. LEVI LINCOLN, LL. D., of Worcester.

HON. EMORY WASHBURN, " "

JOHN GREEN, M. D., " "

HON. ISAAC DAVIS, LL. D., " "

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, " "

GEORGE LIVERMORE, ESQ., " Cambridge.

NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF, M. D., " Boston.

CHARLES FOLSOM, ESQ., " Cambridge.

HON. IRA M. BARTON, " Worcester.

HON. THOMAS KINNICUTT, " "

Secretary of Foreign Correspondence.

JARED SPARKS, LL. D., of Cambridge.

Secretary of Domestic Correspondence.

HON. BENJAMIN F. THOMAS, LL. D., of Worcester.

Recording Secretary.

HON. REJOICE NEWTON, of Worcester.

Treasurer.

SAMUEL JENNISON, ESQ., of Worcester.

Committee of Publication.

SAMUEL F. HAVEN, ESQ., of Worcester.

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, " "

GEORGE LIVERMORE, ESQ., " Cambridge.

On motion of Hon. Emory Washburn,

Voted, That the Society tender to the Hon. Edward Everett, upon his retiring from the office of President, which he has so acceptably filled, their thanks for his distinguished services, in promoting its prosperity and success.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

Att.

REJOICE NEWTON, *Rec. Sec'y.*

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY HAS THE HONOR TO REPORT, That the removal of the collections of the Society to its new building, was rapidly and safely completed soon after the semi-annual meeting; and the books are already arranged, in the same general order which they held on the shelves of the old library. The Library hall proves very convenient, and the Report of the Librarian to the Council, which we annex to this Report, will show what additions have already been made to its contents, and what advantages its arrangements have offered for setting in more complete order the collections which we had previously made.

The Report of the Treasurer to the Council shows that the expenditure of the Society, for its new hall, and other purposes, in the last six months, has been \$5,132 84; and that the present funds of the Society, besides its real estate, are 19,047 77. The details of expenditure and investment may be examined in the Treasurer's statement, which we submit with this Report, as a part of it.

The Council regret that their efforts to fulfil the plan proposed at the last meeting, for publicly dedicating the new Hall, by an address, and other appropriate services at this meeting, have not been successful. The Council invited two distinguished members, to whose previous services in its behalf, the Society is largely indebted, to deliver such a Discourse; but their other public engagements did not permit them. Some local circumstances, also rendered it doubtful whether at this time, we could invite a large party of gentlemen from abroad to any public festival, to their own complete satisfaction. The Council reluctantly relinquished therefore, eventually, the design which at one time they entertained, of inviting several gentlemen to address the Society at a public entertainment, in place of the Oration, for which they had

been unable to make arrangement. The Council trust that they shall, at some opportunity, not far distant, be able to invite the distant members of the Society, and other persons engaged in kindred pursuits, to meet together here and examine our collections, our new and convenient arrangements, and duly celebrate a step so considerable in our modest and somewhat uneventful history.

The legislature of Massachusetts at its last session directed the publication, in an appropriate form, of the first two volumes of the Manuscript Records of the Massachusetts Company. The council has learned of this determination of the General Court with great satisfaction. This Society undertook the work of the publication of those Records some years since. At that time it had proved impossible to interest the government in any measure for making them public, or even for preserving to posterity the materials for History which were contained in the original manuscripts, even then threatened with destruction by the passage of time. The careful copy taken for the Society of the first volume of the Records, was made with the resolution that we would preserve, if no others would, this invaluable memorial of our history. The Society proceeded to publish this first volume, with notes by Mr. Haven. Of that publication, the first part has been for some time past before the public. It is with hearty satisfaction that we find that it has called the Government to a more careful consideration of its own treasures.

The work of supervision of this publication by the state has been entrusted by the Government to the very competent hands of Dr. N. B. Shurtleff, a valuable member of our own society. It will be published wholly without notes of any sort, all possible care being taken to secure the correctness of the text. To facilitate the work, the Council have put at his disposal the copy of the MS., made for the society. It may be hoped that by some arrangement the society can provide for distribution those portions which it has not

published. And it is, of course, in the power of the society to publish any notes which may be desirable to this portion. The work is proceeding rapidly, and will form two handsome octavo volumes, most of which has already passed through the stereotyper's hands.

The abstract of the memoir of Mr. Lapham on the antiquities of Wisconsin, made at our expense in the years 1851-2, has been printed and circulated among the members.

No sale has as yet been made of the estate on which stands the building heretofore occupied by the society. The situation is an advantageous one,—and we see no reason to apprehend that it cannot be disposed of on favorable terms.

The council refer to the Librarian's report for some interesting information regarding the printed documents of the Colony and State,—and the condition in which these exist in our own collection.

That report alludes also to some valuable additions which have been made, since the society last met, to the Library.

The great work of Lord Kingsborough, on the antiquities of Mexico, is one of these. It would be valuable to any library, it is especially essential in ours. The mass of material which it brings together relating to the Mexican Manuscripts, Monuments and Sculptures, is the best treasury from which the relations of those antiquities to the remains of our own country can be illustrated. The more recent researches of our own countrymen in Central America, Yucatan and Mexico, have not added important material of any new character to the collections made by Lord Kingsborough's instigation and industry, and his access to Spanish archives was such as, probably, leaves little to be desired with regard to the points for which those archives contain the means of illustration.

In quite a different line of research, the valuable gifts of the Hon. Stephen Salisbury have been building up the re-

sources of our library where it was very weak, and where, in the daily demands made upon it, it most needs to be strong. For some years past, the Librarian has reported valuable additions made by this gentleman, in the department of Biography. Our collection is therefore now quite well endowed with the most valuable collections for reference in this department. Within the last summer, embracing the opportunity given by a visit to Europe, he has continued these endowments, by forwarding to us a very complete collection of those works of antiquarian research in which only can the American student trace out the personal history of the Englishmen who settled America. We have received in this manner, series of the most valuable County Histories, costly works, always difficult to obtain, and in America not accessible at all, unless in some institution like ours. It is with pride and pleasure that we are able to report to the Society so considerable an accession in so important a department of its collections.

Still bearing in view the importance to all Library institutions of Prof. Jewett's invention for stereotyping catalogues, the Council requested the Librarian and one of its members to proceed to New York to the recent Librarian's Convention, at which meeting some measures were taken which indicate a general acquiescence in the "Smithsonian" system of Prof. Jewett, by the larger libraries in this country. At the approaching session of Congress, the greater part of a catalogue of the new library of Congress, printed on this plan, will be ready for exhibition to that body.

The Council have considered the subject referred to them at the last meeting of the society, of a change in the date of this annual meeting;—that it may take place on the real anniversary of the discovery of this Continent. The point to be desired, of course, is, to take the day of the year which corresponds, not to the nomenclature which in Columbus's Calendar marked the day of his discovery, but to the precise

return of that period of the year; so that if a celebration had been observed every year since the great discovery, each might be just a year distant from the one before. Without entering into the study of the change of style, we may settle the date of that anniversary in our present style, by recurring simply to those astronomical phenomena which were wholly unaffected, of course, by any change of calendar. Counting from one of these, it appears that Columbus made his discovery of America on the morning of the 29th day after the autumnal equinox. That day now falls on the 21st of October,—and, by appointing the 21st of October as the day of our annual meetings, we shall therefore fix them on the precise anniversary of the discovery itself. The Council suggest this course to the Society to be pursued in future years. The celebrations will then take place always upon a day which will mark the precise close of one year more since the Continent was discovered. It will, of course, be the day of which the celestial phenomena, the temperature, and other circumstances of the season, will be as nearly as possible those which the unconscious deserts of Massachusetts presented in 1492, on the critical morning when the great Voyager planted his foot on the island of San Salvador.

The past week has announced to us the greatest victory in the history of American Discovery since Magelhaens doubled the southern point of the Continent, and passed into the Pacific ocean. Commander McClure, of the English discovery ship *Investigator*, arrived on the 19th of April, 1853, with his crew, at Melville Island, in the Polar sea, at the station occupied by Capt. Kellett, of the ship *Resolute*. Intelligence of this has just now been received in England, and reached us on Friday last. Commander McClure has by this time, very probably arrived there himself. If so he is the first man to circumnavigate the American Continent.*

* In putting to press this report we regret to say that winter has again closed the communication with the north, without Capt. McClure's return.

Commander Robert J. Lemesurier McClure accompanied Sir James Ross in the expedition of 1848-9, up Baffin's Bay, in search of Sir John Franklin. He was in that expedition, first lieutenant of the *Enterprise*. That expedition having returned, without success, in the fall of 1849, the same ships were fitted out at once for an effort by the way of Behring's Straits, and sailed January 20, 1850, from Plymouth. Mr. McClure had been promoted to the rank of Commander, and was in command of the *Investigator*. They sailed from the Sandwich Islands, June 30th, 1850. The *Investigator* outsailed her consort at once, and by a very rapid run, succeeded in getting clear of Behring's Straits, and entering the Arctic ocean on the evening of July 27th. Commander McClure's last despatches, written the next day, have been in print now for more than two years, and the last published maps mark the spot, lat. $70^{\circ} 44'$ N., long. $159^{\circ} 52'$ W., where the *Investigator* was last seen on the 5th of August, 1850. In those communications he announces his intention to come home by the way of Baffin's Bay, saying in one of them:—"In the event of this being our last communication, I would request you to assure their lordships that no apprehensions whatever need be entertained of our safety until the autumn of 1854." So determined was his effort to solve the great maritime paradox, in which he has at last succeeded.

It was observed by Sir Edward Parry, in his first voyage, that the current in the polar seas ran from West to East, and that the progress of an exploring vessel would be made most easily in that direction. Following this suggestion, Captain Beechey was sent out in the *Blossom*, in 1825, and

His Lieutenant, Mr. Gurney Cresswell, who brought home his despatches, is strictly the first circum-voyager. Of his great Expedition, four hundred and sixty miles, from the Bay of Mercy to Beechey Island, were performed by him, on foot, with sledges. Capt. McClure, with 20 men, if so many should volunteer, was to make one effort more to bring the *Investigator* through. His invalids, 24 in number, were at Winter Island.

in 1826 entered the Arctic ocean from Behring's Straits, and carried further the line of American coast upon the charts than had been done before. One of his officers advanced in the ship's barge to the point called Pt. Barrow. Since that voyage, different boat expeditions, from the rivers flowing into the Polar sea, have traced the line of the northern coast of this Continent as far eastward as Aberdeen Island in Beck's Estuary, in lat. $68^{\circ} 28' 27''$ N. and lon. $93^{\circ} 7'$ W. But no ship has advanced from the Pacific into that sea,—nor till now, has the communication been discovered between its waters and those known to open into the Atlantic Ocean.

From Capt. McClure's despatches it appears that on Sept. 1, 1850, off Cape Bathurst, a fine breeze enabled him to leave the American coast and sail into the Polar Sea. On the 6th he discovered land which he named Baring Island, which proved eventually to be the land named Banks Land by Capt. Parry in 1820, when he saw its northeastern extremity. Capt. McClure landed on its southern point on Sept. 7th, and took possession. His ship has been ever since within sight of this island.

The same autumn he sailed North through Prince of Wales's Strait, which divides Baring Island on the West from Prince Albert's Land on the East. Prince Albert's Land subsequently proved to be identical with Wollaston Land and Victoria Land of former discoveries.

He proceeded Northerly till Sept. 11th, when his ship was beset in lat. $72^{\circ} 52'$; long. $117^{\circ} 3'$ W. her farthest point that season. For though her brave commander did not come to anchor, she drifted backward in the movements of the ice.

In an overland and over-ice expedition the same autumn, he discovered, Oct. 26th, the entrance into Barrow's Strait in lat. $73^{\circ} 30'$ N. long. $114^{\circ} 14'$ W., thus establishing the existence of the *Northwest passage*. He had there-

fore, made the great discovery, of which we have but now learned, three years ago.

The next winter different parties of his officers and men added largely to our geographical information of those coasts. The next summer he rounded the west side of Baring's Island, attempting to get into Barrow's Straits on its North side; having failed in an attempt through Prince of Wales's Strait. He reached the opening of Barrow's Strait in lat. $74^{\circ} 6'$ N. where he was frozen in, in the Bay of Mercy, lat. $74^{\circ} 6'$ N. long. $117^{\circ} 54'$ W. This station his ship has kept up to our last news from her; having made no essential progress in the summer of 1852.

A year ago last spring Capt. McClure went across with sledges to the region already explored by the parties from this side, but unfortunately without meeting anything but their farthest deposited memoranda. The memorandum which he left, however, having been found by one of Capt. Kellett's parties, a party was sent across to him from Melville Island, and returned with him and a party from his ship, on the 19th, as we have said. It does not yet appear whether he will succeed in getting his own ship through. At all events, however, he will have travelled round America, whether, in strict terms, he be a circumnavigator, or no.

On this day, which we have appointed as a day of commemoration of Columbus, it is a great satisfaction to put on record what we may call the completion of the outline of his great discovery.

The outline is thus marked out of that New World to which the researches of our Society are especially devoted. Every new investigation seems to show that within that outline, different inquiries are more closely connected with each other than was once supposed. Thus, by the aid of Mr. Galatin's vocabulary of our second volume, commissioner Bartlett has recently discovered that the harsh guttural language of the Apache Indians, our new South Western border men,

is the same dialect as the Athapescan of the distant north shore of the American continent. Similar results of ancient emigration may be expected at every point. Our own Society will welcome every enlargement of the field of research, and endeavor by the variety of its collections, and the assistance it is able to give to investigation in every quarter, to combine as far as possible, into comprehensive systems, the results of detached inquiries, and find, as far as may be, such connecting laws as there are for the study of American antiquities. Respectfully submitted,

For the Committee.

Oct. 22, 1853.

EDWARD E. HALE.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer of the American Antiquarian Society respectfully reports,

That the balance in his hands, as stated in his account of April last, was \$23,358,80

Since which time he has received,		
for Interest on Notes, and dividend		
on Bank Stock,	-	821,72
		<u>\$24,180,52</u>

In the same time has paid	
On account of the New Hall,	3,301,80
Mr. Teft's bill for Plan, Specifications,	
&c.,	571,75
To S. F. Haven Esq., 6 months salary	
as Librarian,	360,00
For sundry bills paid Mr. Haven,	178,81
Insurance,	306,55
Picture Frames,	32,60
Printing, Advertising, &c.,	34,87

Painting,	-	-	24,52	
Removal to New Hall,	-	-	33,69	
Furnace and apparatus,	-	-	277,91	
Interest on Money borrowed,			9,92	
			<hr/>	5,132,42
Leaving present balance,	-	-		19,048,10
which is invested as follows :				
In notes, secured by mortgage,			11,140	
Bank Stock,	-	-	7,800	
Cash in hand,	-	-	108,10	
			<hr/>	19,048,10

SAMUEL JENNISON, *Treasurer.*

Oct. 1853.

FROM THE REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The gathering of our books into a single apartment, conveniently arranged and thoroughly lighted, where every volume is within reach of the hand, and every title within the range of vision, brings to view at once the merits and the deficiencies of our collections.

It is under such circumstances that the management of a library can be most satisfactorily conducted, its advantages most favorably developed, and its wants most judiciously supplied.

In locating the books upon their shelves it has been necessary, for the present, to preserve as far as possible their former arrangement, for the sake of retaining the benefit of the numerical references in the catalogue. The old associations cannot be suddenly disturbed without occasioning much trouble and confusion; and any new system requires a good deal of study and deliberation before attempting to carry it into effect. Some changes, however, are believed to

be immediately desirable, in order to improve the opportunity of concentrating and completing certain departments; and we have not been without a degree of progress already in this particular.

A legal gentleman of Worcester, Wm. S. Barton, Esq., kindly undertook, as a labor of love, to make a thorough examination of our collection of the laws and legislative proceedings of Massachusetts during its colonial and provincial periods; and has extended his investigation to the later documents of the state, and also to our series of congressional journals and other national publications.

During this operation, demanding great patience, and consuming weeks of time, every defect or omission has been carefully noted; and by a diligent exploration of the fragmentary matter disinterred from the attic of the old building, he has fortunately been able to supply many missing pages. By like means numerous duplicates of scarce and valuable documents of the same kind have been developed and assorted for use.

The result is, that our collection of Colonial and Provincial Acts, Resolves and Journals, though not perfect, is one of the most complete to be met with—far more perfect than that of the Commonwealth itself; and we have also the means of contributing to the completion of the set in the Secretary's Office whenever the authorities of the State shall awake to the importance of securing an unbroken series of documents emanating from the government of Massachusetts.

Our volume of the earliest edition of the Colony laws known to be extant (that of 1660) was Secretary Rawson's private copy, and contains many specimens of his autograph.

Our series of Congressional Documents proves to be tolerably entire, so far as it can be ascertained what publications have issued from that body. Whether a perfect list exists anywhere is probably a matter of uncertainty—it was not to be found at Washington a few years since.

Mr. Barton deserves the thanks of the Society for the very material service he has rendered—a service which could not have been performed so efficiently without that previous attention to the history of our legislation which other objects had led him to bestow upon it.

Another department of the library is in a fair way to become very valuable for its completeness and extent. In a former report, a year or two since, it was suggested that a deficiency existed in biographical dictionaries, and other means of research into individual history; whereas reference was constantly demanded, to the names not only of authors and other public characters, but those of individuals less frequently noticed,—especially such as are connected with the early settlements of this country. At that time a member of the Council, Hon. Stephen Salisbury, purchased and presented to the Society the *Biographie Universelle*, the *Dictionary of Chalmers*, and the biographical volumes published by the Society in England for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge—together, one hundred and twenty-one volumes. This was a generous and very timely supply. During a recent visit to England, Mr. Salisbury made arrangements for procuring the most important British local histories, and other topographical and genealogical works intimately connected with the same branch of research. The value of such a collection to us it is difficult to over-estimate. Many of the works are of great cost, and are rarely to be met with on sale, while they are essential to enable the American to trace back the history of his ancestors into the counties and towns from whence they emigrated, as well as to assist the political and historical writer in studying the men and manners that were the “*fons et origo*” of our institutions.

To the books above mentioned, Mr. Salisbury added catalogues of some of the great and choice English libraries—such as the Royal Library, and the Bodleian, printed in a rich and expensive style.

A portion of this truly splendid donation has been already received. Of these, two works, Nichols's History of Leicestershire, in eight folio volumes, and the catalogue of the Royal Library, in six folio volumes, are valued in Bohn's list, the first at seventy-three, and the second at fifty pounds sterling. The number of volumes comprised in this addition to a department of principal importance in the library, cannot be determined until the agent employed to collect and forward them shall have filled his orders.

The late Lieut. Governor Winthrop, while President of this Society, selected from the library of the Rev. Dr. Jenks, a number of English and Welsh local historical and archaeological works, which he presented to this institution; and when these and others of a similar nature now on our shelves, shall be associated with the new acquisitions, it is believed that no library in the country will possess a richer alcove of materials illustrating the local and personal history of our progenitors.

Another most liberal donation, made to the library since its removal, is that of Lord Kingsborough's celebrated history of Mexico, in nine folio volumes. This costly publication was purchased and presented by the Hon. Isaac Davis, who on a suggestion of the desirableness of possessing so important a work, volunteered at once to procure it at his own expense.

One hundred and two volumes of our recent accessions are the gift of Frederic W. Paine, Esq., a member of the Council.

George Livermore, Esq., of Cambridge, always a working member of the Society, and who, as an extensive private collector of books, understands fully the greatly enhanced value any classes or descriptions of publications derive from completeness in themselves, whatever their nature, has procured for the library every thing he could find in print that the recent lamented death of our great statesman, Daniel Webster, has called forth in the shape of memoirs, eulogies and addresses. With these he has presented the new and

complete edition of Webster's works. Thus far the collection consists of twelve bound volumes, twenty seven sermons or discourses, and twenty one eulogies and orations, and is to be increased as opportunity offers. Mr. Livermore has also given a copy of the new edition of Winthrop's Journal, and has obtained from the State Library, of which he is a Trustee, a variety of reports, scientific and statistical, of which we had no perfect series.

Rev. George Allen has made several donations, valuable for their appropriateness, and the interest they manifest in the special objects of the Institution.

The whole number of books received since May, is three hundred and fifteen—the number of pamphlets three hundred and ninety four.

The following is a list of the sources from whence these accessions have been derived:—

- F. W. Paine, Esq., Worcester.
- Geo. Brinley, Jr., Hartford, Conn.
- Hon. Edward Everett, Boston.
- The American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Hon. Isaac Davis, Worcester.
- Rev. Dr. Sprague, Albany, N. Y.
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- The Maine Historical Society.
- Hon. John Davis, Worcester.
- Jared Sparks, LL. D., Cambridge.
- The Smithsonian Institution.
- Dr. J. W. D. Osgood, Templeton.
- Rev. Geo. Allen, Worcester.
- Sanford B. Perry, Medford.
- Hon. Stephen Salisbury, Worcester.
- Henry Stephens, Esq., London, G. B.
- The State of Rhode Island.
- Usher Parsons, M. D., Providence, R. I.
- The Rhode Island Historical Society.

Rev. Edward E. Hale, Worcester.
 Rev. Dr. Hill, Worcester.
 Hon. J. S. C. Knowlton, Worcester.
 The Mercantile Library Association, Boston.
 The Trustees of the New Bedford City Library.
 The Hartford Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.
 The Regents of the University of New York.
 The Minnesota Historical Society.
 The Société de Géographie, Paris.
 E. B. Curwen, New York.
 G. F. Peck, Worcester.
 The United States Congress.
 Hon. J. McConihe, Troy, N. Y.
 The New York Lyceum of Natural History.
 Henry Earl, Worcester.
 E. A. Greenwood, Esq., Hubbardston.
 George Livermore, Esq., Cambridge.
 The State Library of Massachusetts.
 Samuel Jennison, Esq., Worcester.
 Rev. Dr. Young, Boston.
 Rev. Dr. Bates, Dudley.
 J. Disturnell, New York.
 Wm. Cross, Esq., Worcester.
 Samuel A. Green, Boston.
 Rev. Dr. Jenks, Boston.
 Wm. T. Harris, Esq., Cambridge.
 Charles G. Prentiss, Esq., Worcester.
 Thomas A. Clark, Worcester.
 J. O. Halliwell, Esq., London, G. B.
 The Royal Geographical Society, London, G. B.
 The Editors and Publishers of
 Hunt's Merchants' Magazine.
 The New England Genealogical Register.
 Drake's History of Boston.
 The Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

The Advocate of Peace.
Norton's Literary Gazette.
The Boston Semi-Weekly Courier.
The Boston Christian Watchman and Reflector.
The Fitchburg Sentinel.
The Worcester Spy.
The Worcester Ægis.

Respectfully submitted,

S. F. HAVEN, Librarian.

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American Antiquarian Society,
Worcester, Mass.
Proceedings

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